

HA-549

c. 1896

SPENSER-SILVER MANSION
Havre de Grace, Md.

The Spenser-Silver Mansion is the only high Victorian, stone mansion in Havre de Grace. It is a two and a half story, four bay wide, detached, random ashlar dwelling. The L-Shaped mansion has a two and half story, semi-circular tower on the northeast wall. Built in an eclectic, vernacular style, the structure displays elements of the Chatequesque and Queen Anne styles. The random ashlar walls are constructed of rough, rock granite, quarried at Port Deposit, Maryland.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Spenser-Silver Mansion

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 S. Union Ave.

6

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Harve de Grace

VICINITY OF

Harford

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Edward Simon

Telephone #: 939-2550

STREET & NUMBER

200 S. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Harve de Grace

VICINITY OF

Md. 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Md.

Liber #: 422

Folio #: 386

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-549

CONDITION☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spenser-Silver Mansion is a two-and-a-half story, four bay wide, detached, random ashlar dwelling. It is located at 200 S. Union Avenue on the corner of Bourbon St., facing east. The L-shaped mansion has a two-and-a-half story, semicircular tower on the northeast corner and a modern, one story random ashlar wing adjoining it on the northwest wall. Built in an eclectic, vernacular style, c. 1896, the structure displays elements of the Chateausque and Queen Anne Styles. The random ashlar walls are constructed of rough, rock faced granite, quarried at Port Deposit, Maryland.

The main porch is a six bay veranda which begins on the front at the second bay, south of the tower, forming a semicircle at the southeast corner and continuing across the south elevation where it terminates at the beginning of a two story bay. A balcony is present on the second floor of the porch. On the front, the entrance bay is crowned by a triangular pediment decorated with garlands. The dentil band and wide, garlanded frieze beneath the pediment continue around the entire porch. The slate, gable roof of the entrance bay is supported by slender columns on granite piers. Six granite steps lead to the entrance of the porch. The porch on the south elevation is at grade level; the entrance having a gable, is very similar to the entrance on the front. Most of the veranda has a gently sloping copper roof; however, at the gables the roof is covered with slate. A one bay entrance porch shelters the door on the north elevation; its slate roof and triangular garlanded pediment are supported by slender columns on granite piers. On the rear of the ell, a similar one bay porch, partially enclosed with lattice, provides access to the kitchen.

Unusual placement and variety of window sizes are typical of many late Victorian houses. The Spenser-Silver Mansion has a tower, an oriel, a two story bay, four gables and a dormer, all of them lit in different ways. Most of the windows are 1/1 light, double hung, wood sash, having granite sills and lintels. Window sash in the northeast tower is curved to conform to the shape of the wall while in the second floor oriel over the entrance, the window openings are separated by fluted pilasters. The single dormer on the front has an arched upper sash divided into nine lights. The transom in the window of the south bay, first floor, front elevation is glazed with art-leaded, stained glass, detailed with flowers. A similar stained glass window is present above the door on the second floor, north elevation. All of the window openings in the attic gable have casement or stationary sash, windows with curved wood muntins.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA 549

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spenser-Silver Mansion is the only high Victorian, stone mansion in Havre de Grace. Built in 1896 in an eclectic, vernacular style, the structure combines elements of the Chateausque and Queen Anne Styles. The half-timbered gables and small scale floral details on the porch are painted white in contrast to the rough grey surface of the granite walls.

The house was built to reflect the wealth and position of its original owner John Spenser, who was in the fish packing business. Along with the Seneca Mansion (HA 815) and the Van Diver Mansion (HA 1124), all on Union Ave., the house represents a small concentration of considerable wealth in the town at the turn of the century. The house was bought at auction in 1917 by Charles B. Silver, a local canning magnate.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

2/17/77

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md.

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

42-5469

#7 Description (con't)

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The entrance is recessed; paneled reveals frame a pair of doors with one light in the upper sash and a square, recessed panel in the lower half. A small vestibule with a mosaic floor separates the outer door from a pair of similar inner doors. Other entrances are found on the north, west and south elevations. Most of the doors appear to retain their original hardware.

The main block has a very tall, slate, hip roof broken on three sides by large half-timbered gables faced with stucco and pebbles. The ell has a gable roof, the gable end being treated in much the same way as the main gables. The one story addition has a flat roof. The conical, slate roof of the tower pierces the northeast corner of the roof. On the third floor, the tower is encircled by a balustrade separated by columns. The roofs on the main block, wing, tower and gables are covered with slate laid in alternating bands of plain and imbricated shingles. The roof of the main block is topped with two metal finials. Large, random ashlar chimneys are located on the north and south slopes of the main block and on either end of the ell's east-west ridge. The overhanging eaves are finished with a simple, molded cornice.

Interior:

On the first floor there are two sitting rooms on either side of a center hall. Beyond that point, the house has been remodeled so that the upper floors can be rented. Fireplaces are found on the north and south walls of the front rooms and on the west wall of the dining room. The fireplace in the northeast, front room has an elaborate wood mantel with egg and dart molding and a frieze carved with garlands, flanked by Ionic columns; embossed floral tiles cover the hearth. The dining room fireplace is faced with tiles and has a bracketed mantel shelf. Although the over mantel has been removed, an old cast iron, gas log remains in the grate. Many of the rooms on the first floor have parquet floors with braided designs in the corners.

A low granite wall with a jagged upper edge divides the house and yard from the street on the east and north elevations.

Outbuildings:

At the rear is a granite stable, converted into a doctor's office for the present owner.

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200 S. Union Avenue Land Records

GRG 422 386 August 5, 1954
Grantors: Elizabeth S. Cole and Walter, her husband and G. Bartol
Silver and Ida, his wife, by will from Fannie Silver
Grantees: Edward J. Simon and Cathryn, his wife

GCB 278 240 June 21, 1943
Grantor: Annie Hopkins
Grantee: Fannie Silver
lots 218 and 225 in square 236

GCB 278 240 June 21, 1943
Grantor: Charles Silver
Grantee: Annie Hopkins, single

Jar 155 346 May 28, 1917
Grantors: Henry Amoss Osborn, Jr. and James J. Archer, trustees
under Charles Silver
Grantee: Charles B. Silver
\$12,000.00 Equity Case-George Carver complainant and Margaret
Spenser et al, defendants.

WSF 102 22 January 29, 1901
Grantors: Maria L. Lyon et al, widow of G.T. Lyon
Grantee: John Spenser
Maria Lyon entered into contract in writing on May 18, 1895
to sell and convey property to John Spenser for \$6,000.00. The
property involved included the entire block and the brick house next door.



HA-549

SPENSER-SILVER MANSION

200 S. Union Ave.

Havre de Grace

northeast elevation

Marion Morton

Jan. 77

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